herpy

GECKOS

Kimberley rough knob-tailed gecko

Nephrurus sheai

A large, stocky knob-tailed gecko from Australia's northern rocky country in the Kimberley and the Top End, with spiny skin, distinctly banded toes and a small knob at the end of the tail. It is nocturnal, feeds on insects and is only sparsely described in captivity, so the guide is based on the close relative *Nephrurus amyae*.

Family: Carphodactylidae

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**9-12 cm** snout-vent length
Lifespan	**10-15 years**
Active	**At night**
Lifestyle	**Rock-dwelling and terrestrial**
Habitat	**Savanna and rocky terrain**
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 45 × 30 cm** L × W × H for 1 adult
Temperature, day	**24-28 °C**
Basking spot	**30-32 °C**
Temperature, night	**20-23 °C**
Humidity	**30-50%**
UVB	**Optional** Ferguson zone 1
Diet	**Insects**
Kept	**Singly or in pairs**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Sexually mature	**12-24 months**
Clutch size	**1-2 eggs**
Clutches per year	**2-4**
Incubation	**80-100 days** at 27-29 °C

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Appendix III**
EU annex	**Annex C**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the care of *Nephrurus sheai*. The dimensions and climate are borrowed from the close relative *Nephrurus amyae*, which is far better known in captivity.
TEMPERATURE	Keep the terrarium at 24-28 °C by day with a warm spot of 30-32 °C, for example with a heat mat under one end, so that the animal can choose for itself. At night the temperature may fall to 20-23 °C.
HUMIDITY AND WATER	Humidity is 30-50 %, and most of the terrarium is dry. Mist lightly once or twice a week in the evening, so that the gecko can lick droplets from stones and furnishings. A low, stable water bowl does no harm.
LIGHTING AND UVB	The gecko is nocturnal and sees little of the light. A weak UVB light can make the animals more active and give more reliable calcium metabolism, but they also manage without it when the food supplies vitamin D3.
FEEDING	The species is an insectivore. In the wild, knob-tailed geckos take everything from ants and spiders to cockroaches, crickets, scorpions, larvae and beetles and even smaller geckos and skinks.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	Knob-tailed geckos tolerate handling, but are not as calm as many other geckos. Pick the animal up rarely and briefly, and sit low, because it is no climber and can fall. Never grab the tail.
NATIVE RANGE	Australia.